

## **Work Plan: Assessment of Mercury in the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem**

This work will support a systematic and comprehensive study of mercury concentrations in water, sediment, waterfowl tissues and food chain biota within the Great Salt Lake (GSL) ecosystem. Sampling will take place at strategic locations in the GSL and adjacent wetlands to characterize mercury values and ecosystem interactions that result in mercury contamination of this ecosystem. This work will provide the foundation for understanding the sources of mercury in the GSL ecosystem that will ultimately guide decision making to protect human health and assess ecological impairments. This work will also assist in formulating protective measures needed to preserve and restore this vitally important wetland ecosystem.

### **GSL Open Water Sampling**

Work Element 1 – Assemble Interagency Project Team

Work Element 2 – Collect and Analyze Water Chemistry Data  
(David Naftz, USGS)

Work Element 3 – Collect and Analyze Sediment Core Samples  
(David Naftz, USGS)

Work Element 4 – Collect and Analyze Waterfowl Tissue Samples  
(Clay Perschon, UDWR)

Work Element 5 – Waterfowl Food Chain Mercury Analysis (Clay Perschon)

Work Element 5a – Brine Shrimp  
(Clay Perschon, UDWR)

Work Element 5b – Brine Fly Larvae  
(Wayne Wurtsbaugh, Utah State University)

### **GSL Wetland Sampling**

Work Element 6 – Collect and Analyze Cinnamon Teal Tissue Samples  
(Clay Perschon, UDWR)

Work Element 7 – Plant and Macroinvertebrate Sampling  
(Theron Miller, Utah Division of Water Quality)

Work Element 8 – Water and Sediment Sampling  
(David Naftz, USGS)

Work Element 9 – Data Analysis and Reporting